

I. SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

There is a need to develop a solid waste disposal plan for Gustavus. The community presently disposes of solid waste on State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources land that has been used as a traditional dump by various federal, State and private organizations and individuals since World War II. The existing site is not permitted by the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation and although management of the site by the community is adequate, improvements can be made. The community is concerned about the long-term environmental implications of using the existing site, and is interested in reducing the amount of solid waste generated in the community and improving disposal practices.

Solid waste management options are limited in Gustavus because of the community's location and lack of road access. Three alternatives are presented in this study: Alternative A--developing a new solid waste site convenient to Gustavus and Bartlett Cove; Alternative B--improving the existing solid waste site within Gustavus; and Alternative C--transshipment of solid waste to Juneau and disposal at the Juneau landfill.

Waste reduction and recycling are encouraged because the amount of solid waste can be reduced dramatically with a concerted effort by residents. In addition to the three alternatives

presented in the study, the options of incineration and baling are presented as additional methods of reducing the volume of solid waste that requires disposal.

Siting a new landfill in Gustavus is a very difficult task because of competing land use values, the proximity of a national park and critical habitat area, a major airport is adjacent to Gustavus, and the generally high groundwater table throughout the area. A site was located north of Gustavus near the end of the main road on Cook Inlet Region, Inc. (CIRI) land that is convenient to both Gustavus and Bartlett Cove. Site conditions appear to be favorable and the site meets the 10,000 foot separation criteria established for the Gustavus airport. This site, presented as Alternative A in the study, is recommended for development as a solid waste landfill for the community.

Alternative A is recommended because it is the least expensive alternative to operate and maintain (O&M), estimated at \$27,730 per year. It is assumed that the National Park Service will pay \$5,700 per year (about 25 percent of the total) for disposal of solid waste generated within the park. Residents of Gustavus will need to pay the remainder of the O&M cost, which is \$24 per house per month (based on 60 houses). The Gustavus Community Association will own and operate the facility as a non-profit organization.

The community is concerned about how the user fee for a solid waste facility will be collected. Taxation, gate fees, and assessments were all discussed at public meetings as a means of collecting the user fees needed to run the facility. If taxation is used to pay the operating costs, the community will be required to incorporate as a second class city.

The estimated capital cost of Alternative A is \$490,000, including the purchase of ten acres of land at \$7,000 per acre. The capital cost is high because in order to obtain an operating permit, state and federal laws regulating solid waste disposal must be met, and these laws have been recently strengthened. Regulations require the installation of a liner and a leachate collection and treatment system, and the entire site must be fenced to keep litter inside the landfill and wildlife out.

